

OSCOV INSIGHTS

The official newsletter of The Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc.

We work in the close partnership with our members and to ensure a thriving and sustainable orchid growers community. We host the biggest annual orchid show in the Southern Hemisphere and provide show judging, quality awards, and judges training. We support orchid conservation and research via donations and public education programs



President's Message

Dear Member society,

Welcome to 2021 and our second OSCOV Insights. We are now in the early stages of a COVID normal and its great to see gatherings recommencing including some face-to-face orchid meetings. 2020 was a year of challenges for us all.

COVID-19 has presented interesting obstacles to many orchid related businesses and clubs and it was great to see how people rose to the challenge and used innovative ways to overcome those obstacles.

Many businesses and clubs moved their activities online and we discovered new opportunities for technology to be used to operate and stay connected. Some clubs used Zoom meetings and webinars to deliver international and interstate speakers to a broader number of members. Zoom meetings allowed individual members to showcase their plants like never before. Some clubs ran virtual orchid shows and OSCOV virtual quality award judging and training became routine in 2020. Online shopping and eBay purchasing was the new normal for us all and Australia Post were kept busy.

We are not out of the woods yet but lets hope that 2021 will bring more normality into our lives and we will all be able to resume face-to-face meetings and orchid shows!

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Stephen Early
Murray Harding
Denis Oliver
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Registrar's Report

Glenda Coutts, November 2020

We have again come to the end of our Judging season, if we can call it that, 2020 is a year we will never forget and I hope will never experience again.

The OSCOV Judging Panel adapted to the challenges put up by Covid-19 and we brought in processes, within our Guidelines, to service our clubs and club members. We had a few challenges at the start, but we persevered and worked out a process to look at awarding plants that growers wanted to put up for Quality Awards.

The process entailed the owner sending in photos of their plant, after consultation with other expert judges I would then forward the photo to a selected Judging Panel consisting of 12-15 Judges. The Judges were selected on a rotational basis and had 24 hours to complete the Award Carding process before returning to me; the points were then collated and forwarded to our Awards Secretary.

From April to November the Judging Panel has carded 27 plants, 2 AM, 18 HCC, 2 Cultural Certificates and 5 No Awards. A great effort by everyone involved. It also allowed me to use judges we do not see on a regular basis like Frankie Fraser and Jock Campbell who showed an interest in participating.

SSOS, MPOS, NEMOS, Sale Orchid Club and Geelong Orchid Club all held Virtual Shows that were judged by our Panel using PowerPoint Presentation and the Zoom communication program.

The show judging process would not have been possible without Michael Coker, Terry Stiles, Sharyn Bolytho and Cliff Ireland who hosted the Zoom communication program to bring all the judging teams together for class judging and then finally Champion Judging.

On behalf of the Judging Panel, I must thank Marilyn Larkin 'Awards Secretary' for all her work during the year and for the preparation of the VOOTY Award presentation earlier this year. Many thanks to Barry Larkin for his support of Marilyn and myself in the confirmation of awards, clarification of issues and the VOOTY presentation.



Glenda Coutts
OSCOV Registrar

Glenda has pursued her love of orchids during the intervening years and has worked tirelessly in club and OSCOV administration. This effort has seen her serve 2- three-year terms as President of the Yarra Valley Orchid Society (YVOS) and is a life member of YVOS.

Served 2- three-year terms as President of the Cymbidium Society of Victoria (COSV).

Glenda has been an OSCOV judge for over 23 years and during this time she served 9 years as the OSCOV Training Coordinator.

In October 2011 Glenda took on the role as OSCOV judging registrar after the late Ern Kettle retired from the role, as registrar she has served as an ex officio member of the OSCOV executive.

Glenda has also found time to grow a wide variety of orchids concentrating on Miniature *Cymbidiums*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*, and *Disa*, all of which are grown to perfection.

Glenda also finds time to provide similar commitment & service to her family and the community.

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Changes to the Judging Panel

This year has seen a change in the Executive of the Judging Panel, John Skews resigned in April from the position of Panel Secretary due to ill health and family issues.

John's commitment over the past 12 years as Secretary has resulted in the smooth running of the Panel and in keeping everyone updated and ^{[[1]]}informed. John's knowledge and understanding of judging issues has been a great support to the panel and myself and I only have admiration for him for his commitment to this Panel.

Due to the current Covid-19 crisis, we were unable to call a Judges Meeting to appoint a new Panel Secretary, so under the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc. 'Rules' we were able to appoint an Interim Secretary until a meeting of Judges could be called. I asked Alan Baker to take on this role and he accepted. I am not sure he knew what he was taking on but he has done a great job and I thank him for his continual support of the Panel and myself.

Alan Hope has sent in notification of his retirement from the Judging Panel. Alan has been on the panel judge for many years and has been a great asset to the Panel and especially NEMOS Club.

Geoff Bailey has resigned from the Panel so he can travel and do other activities. Geoff has worked hard over the years for the Panel and especially for Cymbidium Club where his main interest lies.

The Panel wishes Alan and Geoff all the best in their future and retirement.

As mentioned at the beginning of this meeting we lost two of our senior judges in July, Ken West and John Kenter. Both will be greatly missed by the Judging Panel and the extended orchid community.

Training

During the last 6 months, Michael Coker has hosted a number of Training Sessions on Zoom to keep the students and judges informed. All the Students and Associate were involved in the Award Carding process; they did a great job and I thank them for their efforts and participation.

I must thank Michael Coker, for his hard work as Training and Educational Officer, this has not been an easy job this year and I am sure all students and judges appreciate his efforts.

Promotions

Monica Rogers, Leo Orland and Gianni Montalto have been promoted to Associate Judges. Congratulations on your achievement.

On behalf of Alan Baker, Bob Mason and myself, I would like to thank you all for your time and your support of OSCOV Judging Panel during 2020.

Glenda Coutts

Registrar OSCOV

Recent OSCOV Awards

Den. striolatum 'Anyas'



Award: CC/HCC - 75.5
Date: 30/09/2020
Owner: Murray Harding
Location: Photo Judging

Sarc. Sarah Kate 'Sophie'



Award: HCC – 76.8
Date: 23/10/2020
Owner: Daniel Tung
Location: Photo Judging

Cym. Coraki Glowing 'Kenthlyn'



Award: AM – 80.0
Date: 02/10/2020
Owner: Terry Poulton
Location: Photo Judging

Mps. Pink Cadillac 'Polina'



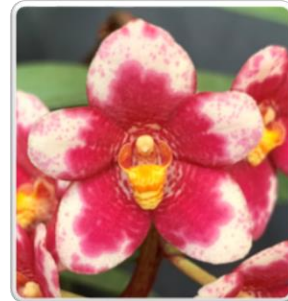
Award: HCC – 77.0
Date: 26/10/2020
Owner: Terry & Elena Stiles
Location: Photo Judging

Sarc. Burgundy On Ice 'Australia'



Award: CC
Date: 20/10/2020
Owner: Sylvia Kappl
Location: Photo Judging

Sarc. Alchemy 'Harry'



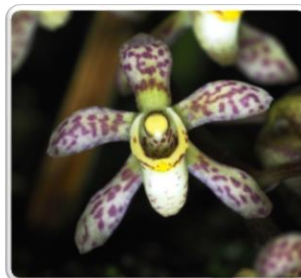
Award: HCC– 78.3
Date: 31/10/2020
Owner: Daniel Tung
Location: Photo Judging

Masd. Super Nova 'Rich Orange'



Award: HCC – 77.7
Date: 23/10/2020
Owner: Marita Anderson
Location: Photo Judging

Prschs. Olive Grace 'Sultan'



Award: CC/ HCC– 77.8
Date: 13/11/2020
Owner: Murray Harding/
Diana Lester
Location: Photo Judging

Sarc. Allure 'Temptress'

Award: CC/HCC– 76.9

Date: 15/11/2020

Owner: Marita Anderson

Location: Photo Judging

C. intermedia var aquinii coerulea 'Devon'

Award: CC/HCC– 75.25

Date: 24/11/2020

Owner: Murray Harding

Location: Photo Judging

Paph. Wössner Gigantum

Award: AM – 80.9

Date: 28/12/2020

Owner: Michael Coker

Location: NEMOS/Photo Judging

Bulb. infundibuliforme subsp. infundibuliforme 'Kays pinkie'

Award: CBM/CC/HCC – 75.7

Date: 21/12/2020

Owner: John Skews

Location: Home/Photo Judging

OSCOV Award Secretary Report

It took many months for judges and growers alike to realise that the award process, although modified, still allowed for our orchids to be judged via photos and consequently be entered into the VOOTY competition.

We have a limited number of entries this year, with very few plants in each category. A total of 29 entries having received awards the largest being Australian Native orchids.

Please note that a further 5 non-awarded plants from a range of categories, have also been entered into the competition.

It might be that a modified version of VOOTY 2020 could be adopted to celebrate growers' efforts this year. This is something that the OSCOV executive will decide upon by the end of the year.

Certificates will be posted to recipients this year, as it is unfortunately clear that societies will be unable to hold meetings by year's end.

Marilyn Larkin. OSSV Award Secretary

November 2020

Photographing Your Orchids

There are many good reasons to improve your skills in photographing your orchids. OSCOV run an annual Victorian Orchid Of The Year (VOOTY) competition and it's judged using photos of all entries. The OSCOV Melbourne Orchid Spectacular includes an orchid photography competition and entries are open to all.

The use of orchid photos for virtual shows, virtual meetings and OSCOV quality awards have been a feature of 2020 and one of the most common questions we are asked is for some guidance on taking quality orchid photos.

To help you get the best pictures of your orchids we asked Sylvia Kappl, a great orchid grower, photographer and member of ANOS, MOS and OSSV, to share her experience and tricks for taking photos of orchids. Sylvia generously provided the article below.

Hunting for that great orchid shot

By Sylvia Kappl

I started taking pictures of my orchids for a pictorial diary of what bloomed when for me. Now every year I still do this and try to get an even better pic. Looking for that "ultimate capture". Whether you are taking pics of your orchids for an award, a virtual show, Facebook or just your own pleasure we all want to get a good one.

Orchids should not be hard to photograph because they stand still. Ok if you are inside but not if like me you prefer natural light. Air movement is a key ingredient to a healthy orchid, want more air movement, well I just bring out the camera and here comes the breeze. Sunlight also great to bring on those blooms, but photographs are better on a bright slightly overcast day. Need some sun I just bring out that camera

Still I have managed the odd nice pic. I have lots of miniature orchids so I needed a SLR camera with a macro lens. Manual photography is great as you can pick the focal point, adjust the exposure and much more. I start with an aperture of F20 and ISO set at 200. This is not always necessary to get a good pic. Today's smart phones have great cameras in them and though you are shooting automatic you can get some amazing results. Love how you just need to touch the screen to show the camera where to focus. Also, more basic point and shoot cameras have automatic and manual functions so this might be another option. (iPad example see pic Coelogyne Linda Buckley)



Coelogyne Linda Buckley



Dendrobium (Dockrillia) Limestone

Camera chosen. Let's set up. Get rid of that background clutter. If you want the orchid to be the star of the pic find a neutral background, don't make it compete with the bottle of fertiliser on the shelf next door. After trying many things, I now use a sheet of black velvet. It can absorb the light instead of reflecting and give you that great black look. Make sure there are no creases in the material or the light will grab it. You want something fine grained and matt finished to work best. Art card comes in many colours if you are looking for something different. Even a piece of plyboard will work well for a neutral background. Having the background well behind the orchid will keep it out of the focal range and help create that smooth background finish.



Before you click that shutter think also of framing the orchid. Just like us they have their best side, so be ready to take a few pictures from different angles. Working out which way is up on an orchid can sometimes be tricky but worth the effort of finding out to make the photo look right.

Next how to get rid of any movement – the shakes i.e. plant, camera and photographer. Ideally a tripod and remote shutter activator are the go. I found a tripod at the bottom of a cupboard from years ago and the remote from eBay – it was a cheapy but has lasted for years. If this is not an option think of putting the camera on timer and letting it do its thing that way. Otherwise a steady hand is required. Chose a location that is calm – a greenhouse can work but sometimes the shade cloth can play with the colour.

Most phones, cameras and computers will allow you to do simple photo editing, such as exposure correction and cropping, I find that is all I need. I am looking for the natural look. Cropping out that fertilizer bottle is a given.

In another incarnation, many years ago before digital photography, when you had to wait a week to see your results. I asked a well known photographer of aquatic life how he got such great pics, he said, "Take lots of photos!"



Laeliocattleya Santa Barbara Sunset

Orchid Conservation Corner

Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) is proud to announce their involvement in the new project set up to help to conserve 14 nationally threatened orchid species across three states. The orchids were affected by the 2019-20 fire at Kangaroo Island, East Gippsland and the Australian Alps.

The sphagnum bogs of the Australian Alps, NSW and VIC:

- *Diuris ochroma*
- *Prasophyllum bagonense*
- *Prasophyllum frenchii*
- *Prasophyllum innubum*
- *Prasophyllum keltonii*
- *Prasophyllum morgani*
- *Pterostylis oreophila*

The wet forests of east Gippsland, VIC:

- *Caladenia aestiva*
- *Caladenia ancylosa*
- *Caladenia tessellata*

Kangaroo Island, SA:

- *Caladenia argocalla*
- *Caladenia ovata*
- *Pterostylis cucullata*
- *Thelymitra matthewsii*



Caladenia ancylosa

Project leaders Dr Noushka Reiter, Dr Ryan Philips and Dan Duval will work with volunteers and partner organisations to prevent extinction of these species through seed collection, propagation and research on post fire herbivory and reproduction.

A symposium will be held in 2021 to share the project's results and provide a networking opportunity for the orchid conservation community.

For more information about this project visit ANPC website: <https://www.anpc.asn.au/projects/preventing-extinction-in-bushfire-affected-orchids/>

If you'd like to get involved in this project, please contact ANOS – Victorian Group (<https://www.facebook.com/ANOSVic/>)

The Melbourne Orchid Spectacular - August 2021

The Melbourne Orchid Spectacular (the Spectacular) is the largest annual, and premier, orchid show in the Southern Hemisphere.

Held over three days the spectacular features themed orchid displays from orchids clubs and societies across Victoria. These displays feature high quality plants which are professionally judged, and the best are awarded.

There is an orchid themed photographic competition and orchid workshops.

You can shop with vendors from across Australia who sell quality orchids, and everything associated with their growing.

Date: TBA

Location: KCC Park, 655 Western Port Highway, Skye, VIC, Australia



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